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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nixon et al.

Serial No.: 09/510,053

Title: "Integrating Distributed Process Control System Functionality on a Single

Computer"

Filed: February 22, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2123

Examiner: Dr. Kandasamy Thangavelu

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: January 12,

2004.

Roger A. Heppermann

Reg. No. 37,641

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RCE

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Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 RECEIVED

JAN 2 2 2004

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 12, 2003, please amend this application as follows: